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Lee, Howard.

The story of old St.

Augustine

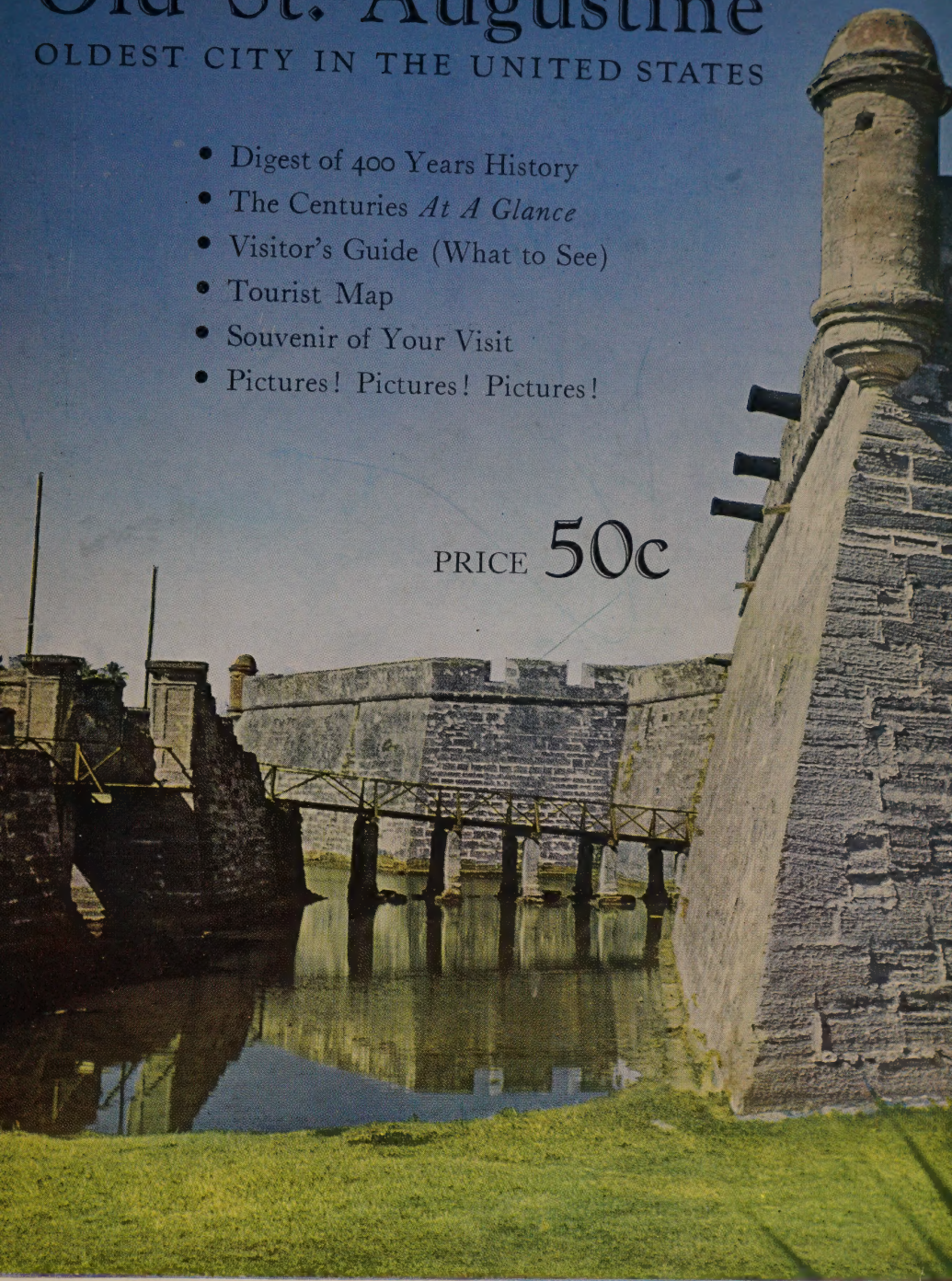
The Story of *Allen Gochman*

Old St. Augustine

OLDEST CITY IN THE UNITED STATES

- Digest of 400 Years History
- The Centuries *At A Glance*
- Visitor's Guide (What to See)
- Tourist Map
- Souvenir of Your Visit
- Pictures! Pictures! Pictures!

PRICE 50c



CASTILLO DE SAN MARCOS

St. Augustine, Florida

The Story of OLD ST. AUGUSTINE

By W. HOWARD LEE



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W. HOWARD LEE

St. Augustine, Florida

A Friendly Warning to Visitors!



Don't short-change yourself by *rushing* through St. Augustine.

TAKE YOUR *TIME*!

The Centuries have provided things for you to see and do here, entirely different from anything you have ever had the chance to enjoy before.

Much of the charm of the "Oldest City" is the *atmosphere* of ages past; but you have to *catch* this, get the *feel* of it, and that takes more than a few hours.

You are sure to wish you had stayed longer if you make the mistake of rushing on to see what there is ahead. You have come a long way to see St. Augustine. Now, slow down and enjoy the peace and quiet of the oldest and quaintest city in the United States.

"Worth your while to stay awhile."

Eileen Goehann

The Story of

OLD ST. AUGUSTINE

A Digest of 400 Years of History

In the year 1513 a fleet of three full-sailed Spanish ships, under command of Don Juan Ponce de Leon, sighted these shores. Ponce de Leon, a gallant knight of the Court of Spain, had been with Columbus on his second voyage to America. Now he had organized his own expedition for the double purpose of seeking gold and the fabled "fountain of youth."

It was March 27th (*Pascua Florida*, Spanish "Feast of Flowers") when this land was sighted. They sailed into the harbor that was later to bear the name of St. Augustine, and on April 3, 1513 (the big date to remember!) Ponce de Leon and his officers landed here. With sword, royal patent, and the flag of Spain they laid claim to their discovery for the Spanish crown. It was this claim of Ponce de Leon that made Spain one of the chief contenders for the great new continent. It is correct to say, therefore, that it was right here at St. Augustine that American history began.

In honor of the day on which the land was sighted and because of the sunny, flowery scene that greeted the explorers when they landed, Ponce de Leon and his men named it *FLORIDA*, "land of flowers." Ponce's fleet stayed here five days as they waited for good sailing weather. During those days, it is naturally supposed, the explorers made sallies into the country round about, prospecting for gold and sampling the water of numerous springs in the hope of finding the magic "fountain of youth." Convinced that



Statue of Ponce de Leon



Menendez

neither was to be found here, Ponce de Leon and his companions set sail never to return.

More than half a century passed before the future site of St. Augustine made history again. A French expedition, under the command of René de Laudonnière, cast anchor in local waters, in 1564. Laudonnière exchanged friendly greetings with the chief of the Indian village of Seloy, and then headed his ships toward the mouth of the St. Johns River (40 miles to the north) to establish Fort Caroline. Two years earlier (1562) he and Jean Ribault had erected a column there with the arms of France carved upon it. Thus France also laid claim to and occupied Florida, and the contest of empires was on.

On September 8, 1565 Don Pedro Menéndez de Avilés, Spain's number-one admiral, landed amid the boom of cannon and roll of drums and with solemn ceremony took possession of the harbor and surrounding land. He named it St. Augustine because he had first sighted Florida on August 28th, Saint Augustine's Day. His company of priests and officers, soldiers and seamen, artisans and armorers came ashore to plant the colors of Castile and Aragon; thus they claimed, in the name of King Philip II of Spain, "the land of Florida." Maps of the period show this to include the entire coast from Labrador to Mexico.

Menéndez and his men made friends with the Indians, used their council house as the first fortification, dug a moat around it and mounted twenty-four brass cannon. This was the beginning of Spain's military headquarters in North America. From this time on St. Augustine was regularly occupied, and so is accurately called "*the oldest permanent white settlement in the United States.*" St. Augustine was settled fully 55 years before the Pilgrim Fathers landed on Plymouth Rock, and more than 40 years before the English founded Jamestown. When the American Revolution occurred in 1775, St. Augustine was already an "ancient city" of 210 years.

Menéndez had been sent to Florida for the express purpose of driving out colonists of other nations and establishing Spain's exclusive claim to North America. He found the French Huguenots (Protestants) already well defended at Fort Caroline. Jean Ribault had arrived before Menéndez bringing fresh re-enforcements, so that the French far outnumbered the Spaniards Menéndez brought to oppose them. After fortifying St. Augustine, the Spaniards did not have long to wait until the French came down



THE FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH

St. Augustine, Florida

by sea to attack them. Menéndez and 150 of his men barely escaped capture at sea, but their tiny boats slipped through the channel and into the St. Augustine harbor. The French Armada was compelled to wait for high tide, and before they could safely enter the harbor for attack, a September hurricane descended. To keep from being blown ashore, the French ships put out to sea.

When Menéndez saw the enemy fleet being swept southward in the face of the rising storm, he realized that his opportunity had come. It would be weeks before the French ships could get back. He reasoned that the garrison at Fort Caroline must be small, and so he proposed to strike while the fleet was away. The idea was not favored by the other Spanish officers and men, but Menéndez was set on making a try. He commanded his best men on an overland march through storm and thicket toward the French fort more than forty miles away. Those staying behind at St. Augustine were sure that their comrades would not return from so foolhardy a venture. But when the storms had subsided and a sunny



Shrine of Nuestra
Señora de la Leche

Religious Procession Leaving
Cathedral of St. Augustine



calm returned, a runner came from the north with the news that the Spanish had succeeded in capturing the French fort and had destroyed it. The little settlement of St. Augustine then organized its first celebration; four priests, with crucifix aloft, followed by soldiers, women and children formed a triumphal procession and marched out singing the *Te Deum Laudamus* to welcome the victorious Menéndez and his men.

Meanwhile, the French ships, trying to escape the storm, had sailed into the path of a hurricane and were wrecked near Matanzas Inlet, about fourteen miles south of St. Augustine. Under Jean Ribault, their commander, the French salvaged as much of their equipment as they could carry on march and turned back north in the hope of reaching Fort Caroline. Menéndez received the news that Ribault and about five hundred men were coming toward St. Augustine; though decidedly inferior in numbers he went out to meet and oppose them. By ruse Menéndez led the French to believe that they were outnumbered by the Spaniards. Upon hints of mercy Ribault and his Frenchmen were induced to surrender.

At Fort Caroline Menéndez had put all but a few of his captives to the sword, "not as Frenchmen, but as Lutherans" (Protestants),



THE OLDEST HOUSE

St. Augustine, Florida

sparing only those who would renounce the Protestant faith and swear allegiance to the Pope. Ribault and his men were to meet the same fate. They were conducted behind the sand dunes in small groups and massacred. The blood of these martyrs mingling with the waters of the inlet gave the river its name—Matanzas (bloody slaughter).

The Spaniards then turned their attention to settling St. Augustine and to establishing other fortifications along the Florida Coast. Under Menéndez' direction a rough wooden fort was erected at St. Augustine. Other forts they set up extended from Cape Florida to Santa Elena and included San Mateo (on site of Ft. Caroline), Avista, Guale, and St. Helena. St. Augustine remained the headquarters of this chain of defenses and Indian missions. The present fort, Castillo de San Marcos, was begun in 1672.

Thus Don Pedro Menéndez de Avilés had succeeded in carrying out his commission to rout colonists of other nations and establish Spain's claim to "the land of Florida." He returned to Spain in 1567, two years after founding St. Augustine. He made only one other voyage to Florida and died in Spain in 1574.

St. Augustine and other settlements Menéndez founded suffered their ups and downs: the Indians became increasingly hostile, missionary efforts to convert them to Catholicism were not very successful, and Spanish Florida became a military outpost and a pawn in the contest of empires.

Twenty-one years after its founding (1586), St. Augustine was to suffer the first of the several disastrous attacks launched against her. The garrison of only 150 men at the wooden fort had received news that Sir Francis Drake, who had already become a terror to Spanish shipping, was sailing toward the West Indies and might also be expected at St. Augustine. Before long Drake's great

Fort Matanzas





Aerial View of Fort, Shrimp Fleet

Photo by J. Carver Harris

fleet with two thousand fighting men aboard was sighted off Anastasia Island; the Spanish governor saw no hope of withstanding such a force and so led his men to escape under cover of night. The English, discovering the town deserted, pillaged and burned both the fort and town. After Drake's fleet had departed, the Spanish soldiers and residents returned from hiding to rebuild.

The City of St. Augustine as laid out by the Spanish in years that followed was in accord with plans prescribed for colonial settlements by King Phillip II. "In a cold climate the streets shall be wide; in a hot climate the streets shall be narrow." The idea was that the narrow streets would provide ready shade and would act like chimneys in giving a drafty flow of air.

The style of building was the best pioneers could do with the Spanish architecture of their time. It was low in cost and agreeable to the climate and manner of life in St. Augustine. Homes were built in simple rectangular shape; living rooms on the second floor.



with overhanging balcony; bedrooms on the first floor for a cool siesta. Gardens at the rear were walled in and planted with tropical flowers and foliage. They were called "out-door living rooms." Frequently the kitchen was separate from the house at the rear of the garden.

The Plaza, in the center of the town, served not only as a public meeting place and market, as in most Spanish towns, but in earliest times was the military parade ground. According to the royal plan for colonial settlements, the palace of the governor, the church, and certain other public buildings should be built around the Plaza.

A native stone was discovered on Anastasia Island about 1580; it was called "coquina" (pronounced *ko-KEE-na*), formed of tiny sea shells held together with a natural mortar. You will see this stone in the old houses and walls throughout the city.

A wall was built across the narrow peninsula at the north end of the old city as a defense against the English settlements to the north in Georgia and South Carolina. The City Gates of St. Augustine, with their sentry boxes and outer moat, stand as a picturesque reminder of the days when this was a walled city. The "Castillo de San Marcos" was the main feature of the plan of defense. In 1668 Capt. John Davis and his English buccaneers came against the town; they pillaged the place but left without burning it. This gave the Spanish the idea that the British would return. And so the elaborate quadrangular, four-bastioned, coquina rock stronghold was begun in 1672. It is considered the oldest standing fort in the U. S. A.

The English colonies in the Carolinas and Georgia prospered through agriculture and trade with the Indians. Clashes between the British and Spanish became more frequent. In the early 18th century a series of attacks came against St. Augustine and her impregnable fort: first, Governor Moore of Carolina, then Colonel Palmer, and then General James Oglethorpe of Georgia attempted conquest of the city. Oglethorpe laid siege to St. Augustine twice (1740 and 1743), but returned to Georgia both times without having won the prize he sought.

The fortitude of "the ever faithful city of St. Augustine" came to little in the end. The British captured Cuba. Spain's grip on the New World was plainly slipping. St. Augustine, along with the rest of Florida, was ceded in 1763 to England in exchange for the return of Havana. Hatred for the English was so intense

IX.
EXPUGNATIO CIVITATIS S. AV-
GVSTINI IN AMERICA SITÆ.



One of Earliest Spanish Maps of St. Augustine

in St. Augustine that all but a very few of the Spanish residents left the city their people had defended for two centuries and resettled in Cuba.

At last the English were in possession of the fort they had repeatedly tried to capture. Spain had completed it only seven years before (1756). Under English rule St. Augustine changed little; fire-places and chimneys and steep gabled roofs were introduced. The English re-named some of the streets, too. But in general the city kept its Spanish atmosphere.



Early Spanish Home in
St. Augustine

During the American Revolution St. Augustine again became an important point in the defense of an empire. The British used the city as a base of operations against the southern colonies. When news of the Declaration of Independence was received, Samuel Adams and John Hancock were burned in effigy in the Plaza.

At about this time, several hundred *Minorcans* fled from their intolerable life as indentured workers on the Turnbull plantations at New Smyrna. They came to St. Augustine, where the British court granted them their freedom. They became respected members of the community; many of them joined the Tory militia. Descendants of these Minorcans continue as a colorful and substantial element in St. Augustine's present-day population. They have furnished some of the city's most distinguished men and women. Many of the local customs, foods, and manners have come down through the generations from these immigrants from the Island of Minorca.

Florida was ceded back to Spain in 1783. Given their choice between becoming subjects of Spain or leaving St. Augustine, most of the English left. The Minorcans, however, chose to remain;



Old Well and Outdoor Kitchen (right), Garden of "Oldest Schoolhouse"

they spoke Spanish and were of the Roman Catholic faith and knew that they would be content under Spanish rule.

Few Spaniards came this time to help colonize. Many of the city's houses stood empty until the Royal Governor offered grants of land to Americans who would come down and settle here. This drew many new settlers and St. Augustine began to grow again. But before long these Americans started a movement to have the territory annexed by the United States. Pressure toward this end increased steadily. When Andrew Jackson marched his army across West Florida, it was clear that Spain had no power to hold her claims. And so the second Spanish occupation of St. Augustine was brief and undistinguished.

Florida was ceded to the United States by treaty, and the American flag was raised over the Ancient City on July 10, 1821. Colonel Robert Butler took formal possession from the Spanish Governor and a new civil government was formed the following year.

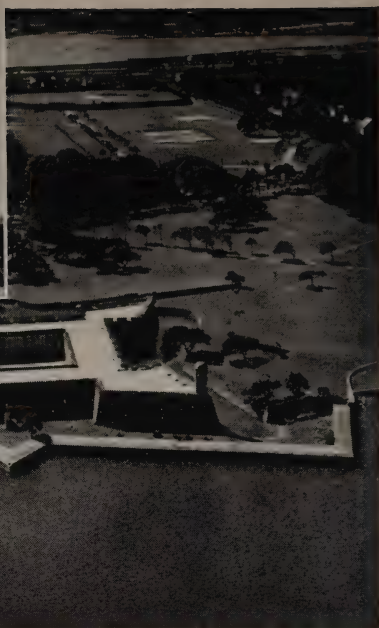
"The American Way" was quickly substituted for the Old World order that had so long held sway. Democratic government was established. Free enterprise and industry set to work. Freedom of religion was guaranteed. Under Spanish rule the practices of religion were exclusively Roman Catholic. Within a year of the institution of the new American government in St. Augustine the Protestant Episcopal Church was organized, the Presbyterian in 1824, and other communions followed. Protestants have now become a decided majority of St. Augustine's population, but the several churches, Protestant and Roman Catholic, serve their people in peace.

Almost immediately the tourist began visiting St. Augustine after it had become a part of the United States. Prince Achille Murat (nephew of Napoleon), and Ralph Waldo Emerson, a promising young writer, were among the first notables to spend a winter season here.

St. Augustine became a military post again with the outbreak

Old City Gates,
St. Augustine





of the Seminole Indian War in 1835. As more and more white settlers came to Florida, conflict with the Indians increased. The U. S. Government made a treaty with the Seminoles, agreeing to exchange their Florida lands for equal territory in the West. The chiefs found their people did not want to move, and troubles began when the government tried to enforce the terms of the treaty. All the terrors of Indian warfare followed: ambush fighting, raids, and massacres.

In desperation the army commanders captured a band of Indian leaders under a flag of truce, among them Osceola and Coacoochee. They were imprisoned in the Fort. Coacoochee made his escape, but Osceola did not even try, believing that the white man's government would give him and his people justice. He was moved to Fort Moultrie in South Carolina where he sickened and died. The capture of Osceola and the other leaders did not bring an end to the Indian War as had been hoped. Trouble continued until 1842 when all but a few hundred of the Seminoles had been moved to the West.

At the outset of the War Between the States, the military



Osceola

value of St. Augustine was again recognized. Florida seceded from the Union on January 10, 1861. Three days earlier, a company of St. Augustine's Confederate volunteers had seized the fort. But in March, 1862, a gunboat of the Federal Navy threatened to shell the city if the fort was not surrendered. The Confederate

garrison had already left the city, and St. Augustine was in Federal control during the remainder of the war.

Following the Civil War, St. Augustine declined again temporarily. Few visitors endured the discomfort of stage coach travel to reach the city. A primitive, make-shift railroad was built west to the St. Johns River in 1871, and that was some help. Transportation gradually improved and travellers began to rediscover St. Augustine. Among these early visitors were writers of prominence; their articles and books about the old Spanish city attracted still other visitors and the tourist trek to this land of sunshine and flowers had begun.

Henry M. Flagler, one of the organizers of the Standard Oil Company, paid a visit to St. Augustine. The old-world charm and flavor of the Spanish town, its pleasant climate and wealth of sub-tropical flowers and foliage appealed to his imagination. Here was a place entirely different from anything else in America! He dreamed of developing it as a winter resort. He was already worth millions, though only in his early fifties, and so he was able to make his dreams come true. He set about to provide accommodations that would attract people of his own kind. Within a few years Flagler had built two great luxury hotels (The Ponce de Leon, opened 1888; the Alcazar, 1889); he purchased and improved the railway from Jacksonville into St. Augustine. Crowds of winter visitors began coming at once, and tourist interest has grown steadily across the years. Now St. Augustine is considered an ideal *summer* resort too. Most people find it unbeatable the year around for climate, good health, and the joy of living.

Flagler's enterprise developed many communities all the way to Key West (see **THE FLAGLER STORY**, companion to this book) but St. Augustine remained his first love. He maintained his home here until his death (1913), and chose this as his final resting place too. He and members of his family lie buried in the mausoleum of Italian marble that adjoins Memorial Church.



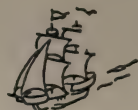
ATLANTIC

SURFSIDE - VILANO BEACH

INLET JETTY

COASTAL HIGHWAY NORTH
TO PONTE VEDRA AND
JACKSONVILLE BEACH

CONCH
ISLAND



NORTH RIVER



HOSPITAL CREEK

FOUNTAIN
OF YOUTH

LA LECHE
SHRINE

CASTILLO DE
SAN MARCOS

RIPLY
MUSEUM

CITY
GATES

SEA WALL

BAY STREET

CHARLOTTE ST.

HYPOLITA ST.

ST. GEORGE ST.

OLDEST
SCHOOL
HOUSE

CITY
BUILDING

SPANISH ST.

CORDOVA STREET

OLD
SPANISH
CEMETERY

GRACE
METHODIST
CHURCH

SEVILLA ST.

HIGH
SCHOOL

ANCIENT CITY
BAPTIST CHURCH

SARAGOSSA ST.

LUTHERAN
CHURCH

MALAGA STREET

CARRERA ST.

CIVIC CENTER

HUGUENOT
CEMETERY

GRAMMAR
SCHOOL

FRANCIS
FIELD

RIBERIA STREET

FLORIDA EAST COAST RAILWAY

SAN SEBASTIAN RIVER



U. S. HIGHWAY
NO. 1 NORTH

TO SHANDS
BRIDGE
AND CAMP BLANDING

MAY STREET

WILLIAMS AVE.

MYRTLE AVE.

OCEAN AVENUE

SAN MARCO AVENUE

GROVE AVENUE

ST. LOUIS AVE.

OLD
ORANGE
GROVE

MAGNOLIA AVE.

NORTH RIVER BRIDGE

CAUSEWAY TO BEACHES

OCEAN



MATANZAS RIVER



The St. Augustine Story

AT A GLANCE

- 1513—March 27, Florida discovered and named by Ponce de Leon.
April 3, Ponce de Leon landed on site of St. Augustine.
- 1565—August 28th (St. Augustine's Day), Don Pedro Menéndez de Avilés arrived at Indian Village of Seloy, renamed it St. Augustine and claimed "the land of Florida" for Spain.
- 1565—September, massacre of shipwrecked French Protestants by Menéndez near Matanzas Inlet.
- 1580—Coquina discovered on Anastasia Island by the Spanish.
- 1583—Convent of St. Francis founded in St. Augustine.
- 1586—May 8, Sir Francis Drake attacked and burned St. Augustine.
- 1638-40—Apalache Indians captured and sent to St. Augustine to work on fortifications.
- 1668—Attack on St. Augustine by Capt. John Davis, British Buccaneer.
- 1672—Castillo de San Marcos begun.
- 1690—Beginning of first sea wall by the Spanish government.
- 1740—British General Oglethorpe of Georgia attacked St. Augustine, laid siege to the fort, but failed to take it.
- 1740—First record of *snow* in St. Augustine.
- 1741-42—Fort Matanzas built as defense against attacks from the south.
- 1743—Second Oglethorpe attack on St. Augustine; second failure.
- 1756—Castillo de San Marcos officially completed.
- 1763—Florida ceded by Spain to England.
- 1767—Nicholas Turnbull brought Minorcans to Florida plantations, near New Smyrna.
- 1777—Minorcans escape to St. Augustine.
- 1783—Florida re-ceded to Spain by Great Britain.
- 1793—Roman Catholic Church (consecrated as Cathedral 1870) built in St. Augustine.
- 1817—General Andrew Jackson invaded West Florida.
- 1821—July 10, Stars and Stripes raised over Castillo de San Marcos, following cession of Florida from Spain.





- 1821—Religious freedom established; Protestant churches founded. (Trinity Protestant Episcopal, 1821; First Presbyterian—now Memorial Presbyterian—1824.)
- 1835-42—Seminole Indian Wars.
- 1837—Osceola, Coacoochee, and other Seminoles imprisoned in fort.
- 1845—Florida became “a state of the American Nation.”
- 1861—Castillo de San Marcos seized by Florida Confederate troops at beginning of the War Between the States.
- 1862—Castillo and city taken over by the Federal forces.
- 1885-88—Henry M. Flagler started renaissance of St. Augustine; Hotel Ponce de Leon opened January 10, 1888.
- 1889—Flagler Memorial Church erected, corner of Valencia and Sevilla Streets, St. Augustine.
- 1894-95—Big freeze (Dec., 1894, and Feb., 1895), mercury went down to 11 degrees; all of St. Augustine’s orange trees were killed.
- 1912—Intracoastal waterway opened to St. Augustine.
- 1913—Henry M. Flagler, generous patron of St. Augustine, laid to rest, May 23, in the mausoleum adjoining Memorial Church.
- 1914—Great fire, destroyed many early houses and landmarks.
- 1924—Castillo de San Marcos and Fort Matanzas made National Monuments.
- 1927—Bridge of Lions completed across Matanzas River.
- 1928—Zero Milestone, starting point of trans-continental “Old Spanish Trail,” erected at St. Augustine.
- 1937—Royal Governor’s Palace restored by Federal Government. (It is now U. S. Post Office and Customs House.)
- 1947—Lightner Museum of Hobbies established in Alcazar Hotel Building and presented to the City of St. Augustine.
- 1950—April 3, Statue of Don Juan Ponce de León, dedicated at Fountain of Youth Park, commemorating 437th anniversary of his discovery of Florida.
- 1950—September 8, St. Augustine celebrated 385th anniversary of its founding; “oldest city in the United States.”





The Lightner Museum of Hobbies
(Alcazar Building, St. Augustine)



St. George St. Looking North—Circa 1870




View of the City at

ST. AUGUSTINE, FLA.

The city shown in the United States.

From a drawing by J. M. Smith.



Visitor's Guide

WHAT TO SEE IN ST. AUGUSTINE

CASTILLO DE SAN MARCOS (the old fort) on Matanzas Bay, end of Bay Street (open daily, 8:30 to 5:30; nominal admission charged). Oldest standing fortification in the U. S.; Spanish Renaissance architecture. Begun in 1672; constructed of coquina (pronounced ko-KEE-na), a rock-like formation quarried on Anastasia Island. Its massive outer walls (16 ft. thick at base, tapering to 7 ft. at top) took 15 years to build. Surrounded by 40-ft. moat; triangular outer fort stands in front of the single entrance. Spanish coat-of-arms is seen above doorway.

ZERO MILESTONE stands between Bay Street and City Gates. This coquina sphere (6 ft. in diameter) marks starting point of the first continental-road . . . "The Old Spanish Trail."

OLD CITY GATES, St. George and Orange Streets, for many years guarded the drawbridge across the moat, over which the city was entered from the north. The coquina pylons attach to sections of the old city wall which once ran clear across the narrow peninsula.

OLD HUGUENOT CEMETERY, just outside (north) of City Gates. This was the first Protestant burying ground of the city. Surrounded by a coquina-stucco wall, its wind-swept cedars and magnolia trees shade the graves of some of St. Augustine's most illustrious citizens. Under the care of Memorial Presbyterian Church, an annual pilgrimage is made to commemorate Florida's first settlers, the French Huguenots massacred at Matanzas.

"OLDEST WOODEN SCHOOLHOUSE IN U.S.A.," 14 St. George Street (open daily, 8-6, nominal admission charged). Maps of first Spanish occupation as well as the time-worn beams and planks of the building itself attest the antiquity of this house. Built as a residence, it was early used also as a school. Old Spanish kitchen in the garden is of special interest. "Grove of the Educators" (at rear of garden) contains statues of noted teachers.

GOVERNOR'S HOUSE, 37 St. George Street. So called because of its connection with the family of Don Pablo de Hita y Salazar, Governor of Florida in the 1670's. This early Spanish house was also used as a Catholic Chapel at one period during the English regime.

OLD SPANISH INN, 43 St. George Street. This two-story coquina-stucco building is believed to date from the first Spanish occupation, or before 1763. Its wide, overhanging eaves and arched doorways are typical of the houses and shops once lining this, the main business street.

"OLD CURIOSITY SHOP," 54 St. George Street (open, Florida handcrafts).

(Continued on page 26)



FLAGLER MEMORIAL CHURCH

"A World Famous Shrine of Beauty"

Henry M. Flagler, Florida's Great Developer, is buried here.



Tourist Visitors—

Flagler Memorial Church



Photo by P. A. Beaudoin

Zero Milestone—Old Spanish Trail

Built as a home in the early 1800's, it has been preserved and its walled garden restored by the St. Augustine Historical Society.

THE CITY BUILDING, corner St. George and Hypolita Streets. Built by the late Henry M. Flagler in 1890 to house the city government, police and fire departments. Its vaults contain the city records back to 1821. The Model Land Company and other offices occupy the three stories of this building, modernized after its fire in 1951.

"OLD SPANISH TREASURY," corner St. George and Treasury Streets. (Open week-days, 9-5, nominal admission charged.) Formerly the Anna G. Burt home, it now houses also the Woman's Exchange. The house is an example of the later Spanish period; its garden is the scene of fashionable luncheons and teas during the winter seasons. In the treasury room are relics of the Spanish inquisition, as well as coins, chests, and implements of the mint.

POST OFFICE AND CUSTOMS HOUSE, St. George Street opposite Plaza. Rebuilt in 1937 to conform to a drawing of the Royal Governor's Palace of 1764.

Shrimp Boats in Port



Indian Burying Ground





St. Augustine's Towers



Arches Old Spanish Treasury

it embodies a part of the building going back to 1690. First building on this site before 1600. When Florida became a territory of the United States, the Governor's Palace became a Temple of Justice, with apartments for the Superior Court, County Court, and the district officials. The huge wooden balconies are especially interesting.

TRINITY PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH, corner of King and St. George Streets (open daily). First non-Roman church organized in St. Augustine (1821); oldest Episcopal Church in Florida. North porch, transept, and steeple were the original church, cornerstone laid June 23, 1825. Earlier this site was occupied by the Catholic Bishop's House.

ST. JOSEPH'S ACADEMY AND CONVENT, 241 St. George Street. Established 1858 by the Sisters of Mercy, later taken over by the Sisters of St. Joseph.

PRINCE MURAT HOUSE, 250 St. George Street. (Not open.) Late Spanish style, walled garden at rear. Prince Achille Murat, nephew of Napoleon, once lived here.

Spanish Balconies



LLAMBIAS HOUSE, 31 St. Francis Street (just around corner off St. George St.). (Not open.) One of the earliest Spanish homes, erected before 1763. Once owned by T. Llamblas, a member of the original Minorcan group.

"OLDEST HOUSE," 14 St. Francis Street (open daily, nominal admission charged). The oldest part of the structure with its low ceilings, "tabby" floors, and big fireplaces as well as the antique furnishings, show the way of living in early St. Augustine. The beautifully-kept garden, wishing well, and replica of Spanish kitchen are among other interesting features of this attraction. Owned by the St. Augustine Historical Society, their headquarters, the Webb Memorial Library, Museum and Indian exhibit are also housed here.

ST. FRANCIS BARRACKS, across from the "Oldest House," now the State Arsenal and Florida National Guard. Franciscans built their first monastery on this site about 1576. Their buildings were burned and rebuilt several times. During the English regime they were converted to military use.

"KING'S BAKERY," Marine Street (opposite Arsenal). Erected by the British, it was serving as bakery for their troops about the time of the American Revolution.

NATIONAL CEMETERY, Marine Street (across from King's Bakery). Military burying ground, particularly notable as resting place of more than 1,400 men who fell in the Indian War (1835-42), including those of Dade's command, massacred by the Seminoles near Tampa in 1836. The vaults containing their remains are marked by three coquina pyramids.

SANCHEZ HOUSE, corner Bay and Bridge Streets (not open). In later Spanish style, its gracious balcony looks toward the river, the high walled garden has a lattice roof of vines.

CITY YACHT PIER, Bay Street South of Bridge of Lions. St. Augustine offers dockage facilities for yachts of all types. During the winter many of America's most famous yacht names may be seen here. Dockmaster is on duty at all times. Electricity and water are available; marine supplies can be promptly supplied.

ST. AUGUSTINE VISITORS' CLUB, opposite city-owned shuffle board courts and carpet-golf course. Game rooms, lounge and library for the comfort of the visitor. Friendly program regularly planned and directed.

POTTER WAX MUSEUM, King and Bay Streets, (open daily, admission charged). Along the lines of Tussaud's famous London museum. New, life-like figures of historical persons, against settings of life scenes on canvas.

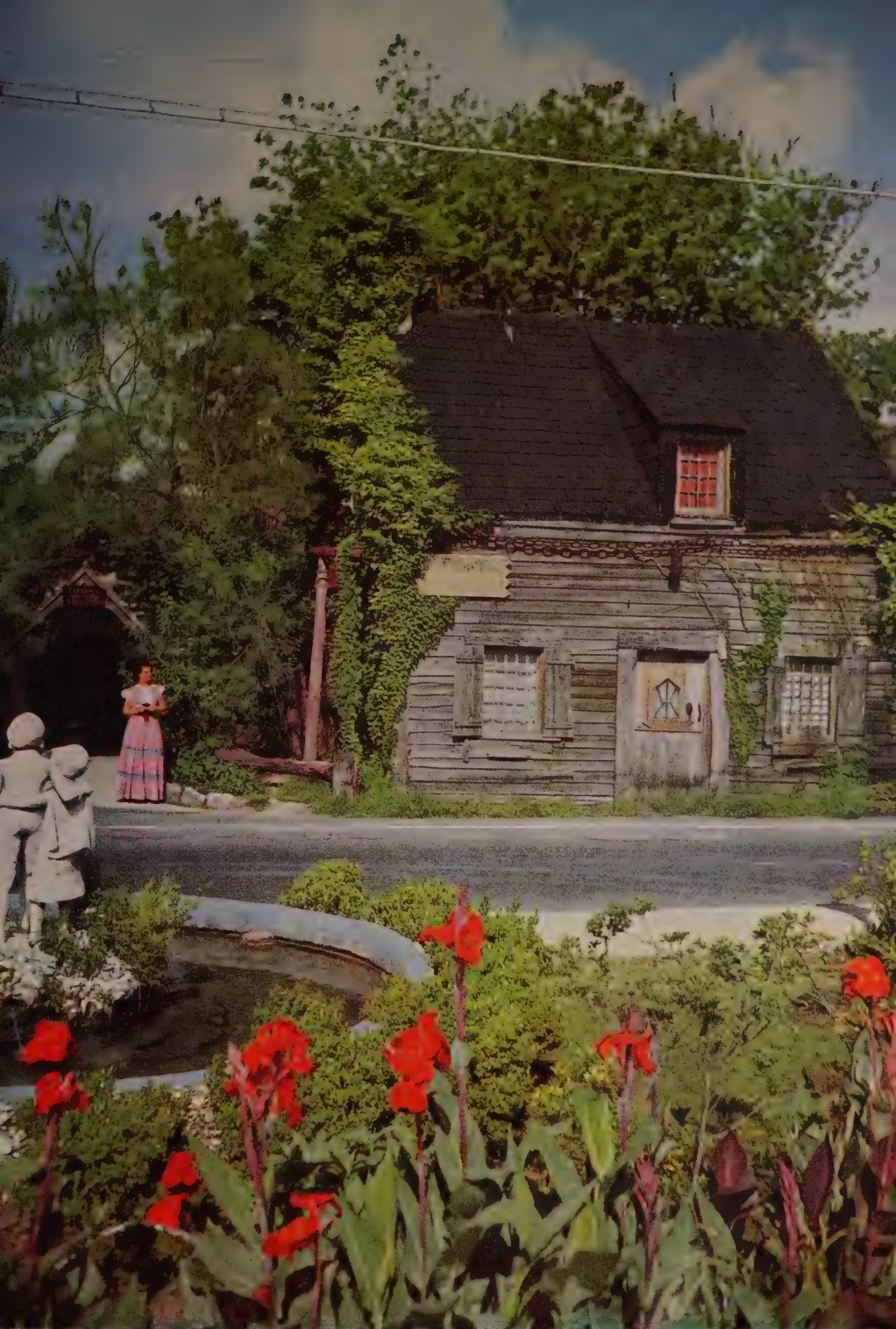
BRIDGE OF LIONS, spans Matanzas River to Anastasia Island and State Highway A1A. Its name commemorates Ponce de *Leon*; the two great lions of white Italian marble, a gift to the city by the late Dr. Andrew Anderson.

TREASURY STREET, between Charlotte and Bay Streets. Narrowest street in the city of narrow streets; only six feet wide.

PONCE DE LEON MONUMENT, between Plaza and approach to Bridge of Lions. Replica of monument in San Juan, Puerto Rico. This also was a gift of the late Dr. Andrew Anderson.

"OLD SLAVE MARKET," edge of Plaza, opposite Ponce de Leon monument. Site of St. Augustine's public market; in the early days ships unloaded nearby, and their cargoes were offered alongside produce from the countryside. It is supposed that slaves were at some time included in the variety of merchandise auctioned off here through the years.





OLDEST (WOODEN) SCHOOL HOUSE IN THE U. S. A.

St. Augustine, Florida



St. Augustine's Old Houses





St. Augustine's Old Houses





ST. AUGUSTINE ALLIGATOR FARM

St. Augustine, Florida



PLAZA de la CONSTITUCION, laid out in 1598, is the oldest public square in the United States. Its name comes from the monument to the short-lived Spanish liberal constitution. In accord with the 16th Century plans for Spanish colonial settlements, the Plaza was used as a public meeting place, market, and military parade grounds.

CATHEDRAL OF ST. AUGUSTINE, north side of Plaza (open daily). Records of this, "the oldest parish," go back to 1594. Begun in 1793, completed 1797; it was made the Cathedral of the Roman Catholic diocese of St. Augustine in 1870. In 1887 fire destroyed most of the building; the remaining facade and some parts of the original walls were incorporated in the expanded edifice built in 1888. The campanile and transepts were added at that time. Stained glass windows depict events in the life of the patron Saint Augustine. Bells in the old facade are reckoned to be the oldest bells in the country.

AVILES STREET, southward from the Plaza. Along this narrow, picturesque street are some of the town's most historic houses, as well as many interesting shops. The Public Library (house in which was born Edmund Kirby-Smith, last of the Confederate generals to surrender), Fatio House, Don Toledo House, and others give this street its special character.

LIGHTNER MUSEUM OF HOBBIES, in former Alcazar Hotel (open daily, admission charged). A Flagler-built Spanish Renaissance structure; purchased by the late O. C. Lightner of Chicago and given to the City of St. Augustine along with his vast collection of hobbies. It houses also the Chamber of Commerce, the Arts Club, and antique shops.

CORDOVA BUILDING, corner of King and Cordova Streets. Formerly a Flagler-owned hotel; its Moorish-Spanish architecture is noteworthy.

PONCE DE LEON HOTEL, King Street (open as a hotel Dec. 30-April 15). This is the first and most luxurious of the Flagler hotels: it was designed by Carrere and Hastings, Architects, in the style of the Spanish Renaissance. It was opened for business January 10, 1888. It remains one of the finest examples of this architectural style in America.

VILLA ZORAYDA, 83 King Street (open daily, 9-6, admission charged). Resembling a part of the Alhambra in Spain, it was St. Augustine's first "monolith" structure (a mixture of sand, cement, and coquina shell); it was built by Franklin Smith and served as his home. The Flagler builders seized on this new idea and erected the great hotels and other Flagler buildings in St. Augustine of this same material. Houses a collection of exotic antiques.

FLAGLER MEMORIAL CHURCH, corner Valencia and Sevilla Streets (open daily, 9-5). Henry M. Flagler built this great church (1890) in memory of his daughter and gave it to the Presbyterian Church Society of St. Augustine. In Venetian Renaissance style (period of the transition), its huge copper dome rises 120 feet and is topped by a 20-foot ornamented Greek cross. The interior is richly adorned with carved Santo Domingo mahogany and Italian friezes. The Tiffany-style windows depict the articles of the Apostles' Creed. Flagler and members of his family are buried in the mausoleum adjoining the church.

OLD SPANISH CEMETERY, Cordova Street. Opened in the late 1700's, its above-ground tombs and crypts bear historic inscriptions. The first Roman Catholic Bishop of St. Augustine, Augustine Verot, is buried here.

"**OLDEST ORANGE GROVE**," out San Marco Avenue (open by appointment).

One of the oldest budded orange groves, surrounded by moss-hung live oaks and high wall.

RIPLEY MUSEUM, San Marco Avenue (open daily, admission charged). A collection of curios and original cartoon drawings of the late Robert L. Ripley.

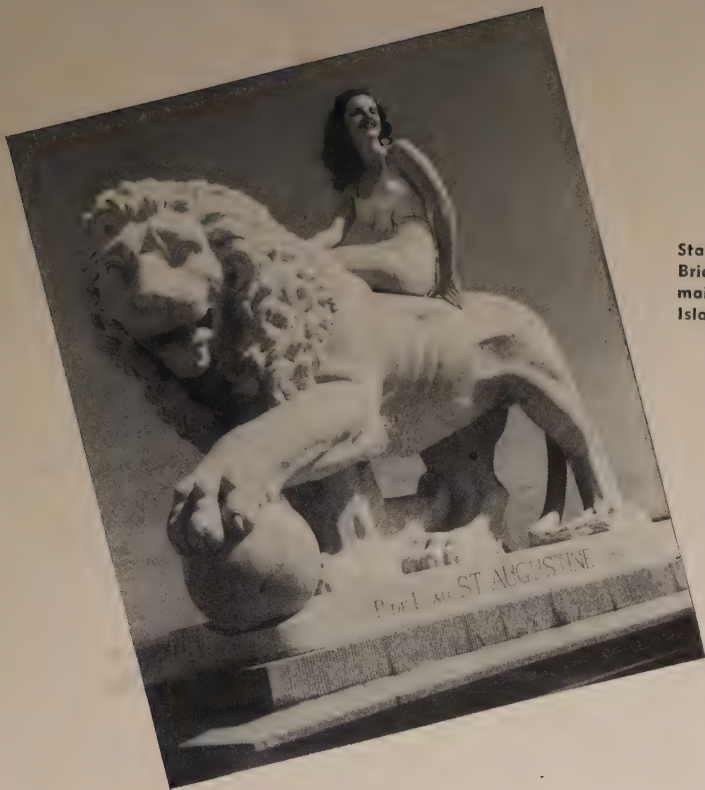
SHRINE OF NUESTRA SENORA de la LECHE, Ocean Street (open daily). Called the "Shrine of American motherhood," it commemorates the first Roman Catholic Mass said on these shores, September 8, 1565. Miniature diorama shows landing of Spanish colonists; Menéndez relics, other exhibits. Annual pilgrimage is made on Low Sunday by the clergy and congregation of the Cathedral parish and visitors.

FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH PARK, INDIAN BURYING GROUND, off San Marco Avenue; main entrance Williams Street and Magnolia Avenue (open daily, admission charged). An unusual statue of Juan Ponce de León and a marker indicate the spot where Florida's discoverer may have landed in his search for the "fountain of youth." Within a coquina grotto is the ancient spring from which he may have drunk; believed used by the Indians for many generations before. Most visitors drink from this spring today. Indian burying ground discovered nearby; exposed skeletons displayed inside a replica of an Indian council house.

MYSTERY HOUSE, across from the St. Augustine Alligator Farm, appears to defy the law of gravity. (Open daily, nominal admission).




Front view of the Hotel Ponce de Leon from across King Street.
The Dome of Memorial Church at left.



Statue at entrance to
Bridge of Lions linking
mainland with Anastasia
Island.



Photo by W. W. Wilson



Additional St. Augustine Attractions

In addition to the many points of historic and scenic interest (*What to See*—pages 24-34) all kinds of recreation and amusements are offered:

The St. Augustine Alligator Farm, on the Beach Road (A-I-A), is rated as "world's largest." (Open daily, admission charged). See color picture opposite page 33.

St. Augustine's Beaches are unexcelled.

Matanzas and North Rivers afford many miles of protected waters for *sailing and boating*.

The famed Ponce de Leon Course has made this a winter *golf capital*.

The waters of bay, river, surf, and deep sea hold thrills aplenty for the *fishing enthusiast*.

The artist calls it "America's most *paintable city*."

For *rare foods* treat your palate to such "old world" dishes as Spanish pilau (pronounced PER-low), Minorcan Clam Chowder, native shrimp, and other such delicacies at St. Augustine restaurants and dining rooms.

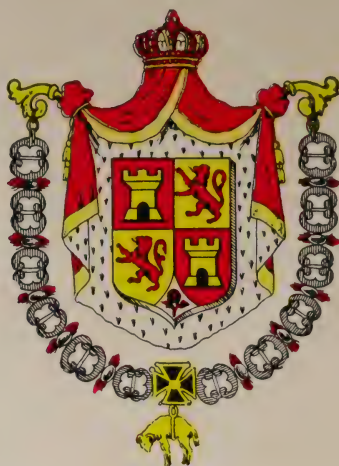
The St. Augustine Visitors' Club provides a social center where you may make friends and join in community activities.

As a matter of fact, for peace and rest that restore body, mind and spirit; for friendliness and good will; for real enjoyment of life, you'll find it hard to equal old St. Augustine.

Remember: "WORTH YOUR WHILE TO STAY A WHILE"

The Story of
OLD
ST. AUGUSTINE

By W. HOWARD LEE



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